



REPORT OF ANNUAL BELKNAP RANGE CONSERVATION COALITION

The Belknap Range Conservation Coalition (BRCC) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote the conservation of open space, responsible stewardship, and low impact public enjoyment of scenic, natural, recreational and historical resources of the Belknap Mountain Range. Participating members include individuals from the conservation commissions in the project area towns of Alton, Belmont, Gilford and Gilmanton, the Gilford Land Conservation Task Force as well as dedicated individuals such as Dave Roberts who share an avid interest in the many resources that the Belknap Range provides. Conservation organizations with participating members include: UNH Cooperative Extension; Society for the Protection of NH Forests; Lakes Region Conservation Trust; Belknap County Sportsmen's Association; Gilmanton Land Trust; Lakes Region Planning Commission and the Belknap County Conservation District.

Along with working to protect the large unfragmented block of land encompassing the Belknap Mountain Range, the BRCC also educates the public about the significance of the resources of the Belknap Mountain Range; develops, promotes, and implements methods and strategies for ensuring the long-term protection and responsible stewardship of these resources; and promotes opportunities for low impact public enjoyment and recreation.

The BRCC strives to facilitate cooperation and communication among conservation organizations, municipalities, other governmental entities and area landowners, and helps coalition members secure funding, technical assistance and other resources for carrying out programs in support of this mission.

The BRCC continued to make important organizational strides during 2009 after completing the necessary steps to organize with the State of New Hampshire as a non-profit. The Directors met monthly during the 2009 year. The monthly meetings offer important opportunities for members to share information about parcels within the focus area. A highlight of 2009 was that on October 11, 2009, the BRCC hosted information booths in the Mt Major parking lot and at the summit with information about the Belknap Range, its trails and its conservation lands. A large map of the Belknap Range and annotated photographs were available for viewing. Maps of the Belknap range and of Mount Major were made available for purchase. Information was made available about the hiking patch sponsored by the Belknap County Sportsmen's Association. During 2009 the BRCC participated in conserving 114 acres of land within the project focus area.

The BRCC also continues working on updating the GIS maps for the Belknap Mountain Range. For more information on the BRCC, please contact the Belknap Range Conservation Coalition @ PO Box 151, Gilmanton IW, NH 03837 or email us @ BelknapRangeCC@aol.com.

Respectfully submitted,
Russell J. Wilder, Chair